

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

By the present Preliminary Amendment a new Abstract believed to be in more proper format under United States practice is submitted.

Further, claims 1-22 are canceled without prejudice and new claims 23-44 are presented for examination. New claims 23-44 are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, including the original claims, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

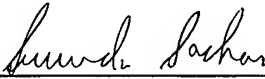
Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

GJM:SNS\la
I:\ATTY\SNS\288708US-PR.DOC



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423